

Clostridium Difficile

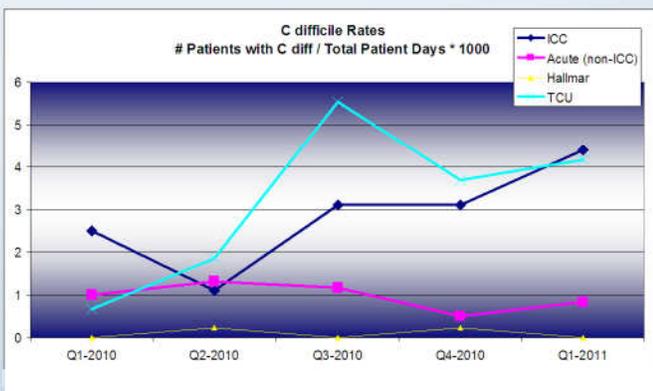


Outbreak versus Outcome

An increased rate of C difficile comes from basically 2 causes: contaminated environment or overuse of antibiotics. Both need to be carefully monitored and quickly acted upon. Here are the interventions we use to combat this Healthcare-Associated Infection:

- Standing order from Dr. McGrail to screen for C. difficile with the first sign of diarrhea symptoms. No extra paging/calls out to doctors.
- C. difficile by PCR testing (Microbiology). Quick and accurate—know the results in an hour in most cases.
- Contact PLUS Isolation Precautions. EVS changes to a hypochlorite disinfectant. Soap & water is used on exiting that room.
- ALL of our HAI-C difficile infections had been on antibiotics at least 2 days (average >5). We are working in cooperation with Pharmacy to build an Antibiotic Stewardship program here with the anticipation it will decrease our C difficile rates.
- Departments that see a sustained rise in C diff rates get increased rounding for isolation technique, hand hygiene, ATP counts and if needed, cultures. EVS also does a whole-dept cleaning with hypochlorite.
- As part of the IDPH HAI Grant, our C difficile rates will be reported externally starting in 2011.

Gaining Control...



C. difficile is the most common cause of infectious diarrhea in healthcare settings. The latest statistics find the incidence rates jumped from 3.4 (1997) to 8.4 (2005) per 1,000 acute care admissions. Historically the mortality rate remains low (2%). However, it is estimated that US spends \$3.2 billion annually for hospital costs for just this infection (from 200-02 data). Antibiotics show a positive correlation in 96% of C difficile patients, though it is also well established that this spore-forming bacteria survives well in the environment and easily is transmitted via fecal-oral transmission.

Clinical Practice Guidelines: 2010 Update by SHEA and IDSA. Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology May 2010, 31(5)

Stopping it with Antibiotic Stewardship & Strict Cleaning Practices